

REMARKS

Upon issuance of the Final Office Action dated August 6, 2010, claims 1, 14, 15, 17-26, 34-44 and 57 were pending in the application, and claims 8 and 49-56 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. In the present amendment, claims 22, 38 and 39 have been canceled; and claims 1, 14, 15, 21, 24-26 and 57 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. *No new matter has been added.*

Accordingly, upon entry of the amendments presented herein, claims 1, 14, 15, 17-21, 23-26, 35-37, 40-44 and 57 will be pending in the application. Amendments to and cancellation of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and were done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

Acknowledgement of the Withdrawal of Previous Rejections

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the withdrawal of the previous rejections of claims 14, 15, 17-22, 24-26, 34 and 38-44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Ruvkun *et al.*; of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruvkun *et al.* in view of Gems and Riddle; and of claims 20, 23 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruvkun *et al.*

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

Claims 21-23 and 40 have been acknowledged as containing allowable subject matter, and claims 1, 14, 15, 17-20, 24-26, 34-39, 41-44 and 57 stand rejected on the ground that the specification is enabling only for carrying out the claimed methods in a nematode. Specifically, the Office Action alleges that “[u]ndue experimentation would be required of the skilled artisan to determine a nexus between the mammalian homologues of EGL-8, RIC-4, or RIC-8, cholinergic signaling, and extension of the mature life phase of an organism.” (Office Action at page 7).

Applicants traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite allowance of the application, independent claims 1, 14, 15, 24-26 and 57 have been amended to limit the scope of

the claimed subject matter to methods of identifying agents capable of extending the mature life phase of a nematode.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

It is Applicants' understanding that no fees are due at this time. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. UMY-035RCE.

Dated: October 22, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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